

Practical Issues Concerning the Conduct of an FMEA on an Offshore Vessel

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Abstract

A considerable amount of time has been devoted to the mechanisms of preparing a Failure Mode and Effect Analysis. International standards have been considered and compared, the methodologies of the processes have been reviewed, and presentation and structure critiqued, yet surprisingly little time has been set-aside until now to consider the practical aspects of the FMEA proving trials themselves. It is hoped that with this short paper, combined with some of the other contributions in this session, this omission may be remedied and the subject brought a little closer to the sunlight since, although it only represents a very small part of the whole of a project, its ramifications can be extensive.

The C-MAR Group have completed a number of Failure Mode and Effect Analyses on Dynamically Positioned vessels both in the Gulf of Mexico region and worldwide.. The types of vessel involved have varied greatly from Platform Service Vessels through Diving Support Vessels to Semi-Submersible Drilling Rigs. Similarly the age and type of installation has also varied from new builds, to upgrades and conversions. This has given our Auditors and Consultants a considerable body of experience to enable them to judge how a particular FMEA audit can be approached and what to expect under differing situations.

The complete set of criteria included in the paper are based upon those experiences. It should be noted however that they represent the ideal requirements for conducting a trials programme and that it is rare that the ideal is encountered in practice.

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